



**Lewis and Clark County  
Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council  
Zoom Conference Room**

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

**11:30am-12:30pm**

**Leadership Team:** Drenda Niemann, Chair, Marvin Colman, Vice Chair and Matt Furlong, Past Chair, Jolene Jennings, BHSIS.

**Minutes**

**I. Welcome and Introductions – Drenda**

**Attendance:** Drenda Niemann, Matt Furlong, Marvin Colman, Jolene Jennings, Kim Gardner, Kelsey Kyle, Commissioner Tom Rolfe, Dennis Nyland, Eric Griffin, Andrea Homier, Michele Marshall, Emily McVey, Gary Mihelish, Jillian Danesi, Jen Preble, Jess Hegstrom, Sean Logan, John Nesbitt, Rebecca Hargis, Wynn Randall, Rena Steyaert, Robin Suzor, Theresa Ortega, Wynn Randall, Brandy Vail, Toni Zimmer, Kristie Black. Total: 27

- **New Members:** County Commissioner Tom Rolfe and Deputy County Attorney John Nesbit, whose work includes Court MH Volunteer Commitment.

**II. Approval of Minutes from December 2020 –** Approved with no changes by M. Furlong and K. Gardner

**III. COVID19 Update: Current Vaccine Distribution Plan- Drenda**

Vaccine Clinic: We are finishing up Phase 1a, and most on LAC meeting are eligible as BH and Medical Providers and I encourage all of you who have not yet received the vaccine to go the Fairground on Tuesday and Wednesday for vaccination from 7am-11am. This will be last official Phase 1a clinic dedicated to prioritizing Medical and Behavioral providers. Phase 1b clinics will start next for individuals that are over age 70 followed by those who are 16-69 with underlying health conditions. Those who missed the Phase 1 vaccine clinics can also go to Phase 2 if they missed Phase 1a. Planning has been in flex thru and into distribution in county, so please follow the county public health [website “hub link”](#) along with a new twitter account for latest vaccine clinic updates and information. Process at vaccine clinic was described in detail by Drenda. Toni Zimmer from AWARE thanked all for providing information to allow providers to get access and information on the vaccine-thanks to all that made the process so well organized!

**IV. 2021 MT Behavioral Health Legislative Forum Summary from 12.11.2020 -Drenda/Jolene**

Forum was packed full of policy and priorities for BH community with legislative members tentatively listening. If you were not able to attend, it is worth watching the entire recorded 60-minute Forum presentation section in addition to 25 minutes of of Q&A. Summary highlights included:

- 53 in attendance including 10 legislators
- 3 poll questions and top responses highlighted including the priority need for continued Medicaid Expansion!
- Q&A included over 60 communication exchanges
- Positive experience and quotes across the board from those in attendance.
- Detailed summary with link to Forum video recording provided <https://youtu.be/L5G9W-TqkHA>

Important LAC Forum post-work will be to continue paying attention to the 2021 Legislative Session for important Behavioral Health bills. LAC will discuss ways to stay connected to the rapid paced schedule of bills, hearings and options to offer testimony. A planning approach with letter writing, communication and alerts to better organize approach by LAC on BH issues. Contact Jolene as the communication hub to share LAC community actions/needs with LAC Steering

Committee to strategize on system for quick response. If coaching wanted on how to testify to Legislature, Matt Furlong & Gary Mihelish have offered to provide coaching.

**V. LAC Strategic Planning Schedule: Survey and Session- Jolene**

- [Pre-Survey link](#) was emailed on Dec 30<sup>th</sup> – **please complete by 1.22.21**
- LCC Behavioral Health Local Advisory Council [webpage link to Bylaws for Mission and Principles](#)
- Manual format available if required-contact Jolene
- Remote Strategic Planning Session will take place at a special 2-hour meeting time.
  - Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 12:00pm-2:00pm
  - Led by Dan Clark, Director, MSU Local Government Center
  - [Zoom link](#) to participate in Strategic Planning

**VI. Suicide Prevention Coalition - Jess Hegstrom**

Letter of Commitment and Support requested from LAC by LCPH Suicide Prevention Coalition Coordinator for MHAT: Mental Health Awareness Training grant application, with the current 3-year grant sunsetting this September. Over 3,000 individuals have been trained to date. The renewal of this new application is for a five-year grant, which would expand the SPC training and services to a tri-county area of LCC, Broadwater and Jefferson. Current grant period training is still available, please contact Jess for more details on your organization and program SP educational needs. New grant application commitment letters of support needed from LAC and other providers by January 20<sup>th</sup> to extend funding beyond September 2021. Jen Preble and Wynn Randall motioned to approve letter.

**VII. VI. Public Comments**

**Marvin Colman, Manager of Our Place Drop-in Center** shared key data points from 2020 year-end. High demand from consumers was answered by dedicated staff who provided the needed peer support, housing, benefits, over **4,598 meals**, transportation and behavioral health referrals to serve **the 8,607 consumers who sought assistance at the Our Place in 2020!** Thank you to Jolene Jennings for working with Our Place management to create an amazing excel spreadsheet to help our team capture key data points that we were not capturing but important to show our impact and she was spot on. Thank you to Theresa Ortega, Executive Director of Good Samaritan Ministries for giving us this opportunity at Our Place Drop-in Center! I am very proud of the work we do.

The incredible team at Our Place has developed a new follow-up system helps to ensure housing and services continue once consumer is in community, this retainment can fall off quickly with problems that arise. We have found over 70% retention with outreach efforts to address any developing issues to ensure housing is maintained. Contact Our Place Drop-in Center for full report.

Daily crisis needs were compounded during COVID19 and Our Place stepped up to be a key part of the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care-thanks to all !

**[Next Monthly Meeting and SPECIAL TIME!](#)**  
**[Tuesday, February 2, 2021 12:00PM-2:00PM](#)**

[Strategic Planning Zoom Meeting Link](#) – Save the Date!